

Appl. No. 10/729,230
Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording sheet comprising a support having thereon an ink receiving layer containing silica particles prepared by a precipitation method or a gelling method; and a hydrophilic binder,

wherein the silica particles have an average diameter of a primary particle of not more than 10 nm and an average diameter of a secondary particle diameter of 10 to 300 nm; a weight ratio of the silica particles to the hydrophilic binder is 5.5 : 1 to 12 : 1; and the ink receiving layer has a surface pH value of 3.0 to 6.0; and

the silica particles are pulverized so as to satisfy the following relationship:

$$150 < y + 17 \cdot \ln(x) < 500,$$

provided that x represents a number of particles having a particle diameter of at least 10 micron in one gram of the dispersed silica particles, while y represents the average particle diameter in nm of the secondary particles;

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and the ink receiving layer contains a cationic compound for fixing a colorant in the ink.

2. (Previously Presented) The ink-jet recording sheet of claim 1, wherein the silica particles are prepared by a gelling method.

3. (Original) The ink-jet recording sheet of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic binder is a polyvinyl alcohol or a polyvinyl alcohol derivative.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Original) The ink-jet recording sheet of claim 1, wherein the support is non-water absorptive.

6. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of forming ~~[[an]]~~ the ink-jet recording sheet of claim 1, comprising the steps of:
pulverizing silica particles prepared by a precipitation method or a gelling method so as to have an average diameter of a secondary particle of 10 to 300 nm;

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mixing the dispersed silica particles with a hydrophilic binder to form a coating composition; and
applying the coating composition on a support,
wherein a weight ratio of the silica particles to the hydrophilic binder is 5.5 : 1 to 12 : 1; and the ink receiving layer has a surface pH value of 3.0 to 6.0.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method of forming an ink-jet recording sheet of claim 6,

wherein [[a]] the cationic compound for fixing a colorant in an ink-jet ink is present during the dispersing step of the silica particles.